

WORLD WAR COST AMERICA 24 BILLIONS

MESSAGE OF PRESIDENT PASSED UP

Republican Party Leaders Not Likely to Follow Wilson's Lead.

Washington, Dec. 8.—With preliminary over and the president's message today got into its regular stride. In the senate, actual debate was expected to begin with the taking up late in the day of the measure to regulate the packing industry.

There also was likelihood the proposed farmer relief legislation would be called up for action. In the house, the day's proceedings were to be confined chiefly to certain activities.

Investigation of war department payments to steamship owners for conditioning ships used as transports during the war, which was begun yesterday by the special war expenditures investigating committee, continued with officers of the transport service as witnesses.

The immigration exclusion bill, introduced by a supporter as one of the most important matters to be dealt with at this session, will not be taken up until Thursday.

Ignore Message. Washington, Dec. 8.—(By United Press.)—President Wilson's recommendations to congress are to be dismissed with scant attention by republican leaders, they made plain today in informal discussion of the message read to the two houses yesterday.

The republicans said, in effect, that while they agree with Wilson that the reconstruction job should be tackled and finished as soon as possible, there is no hope of agreeing with him as to the methods to be followed.

One exception was noted in the general rejection of the president's request for immediate action. This was the budget bill, which is scheduled to pass the senate soon and go to Wilson.

Tax revision will be deferred. There is strong feeling that something should be done for the disabled soldiers and sailors, but that, too, will have to wait, according to present plans. Governmental economy cannot be brought about fully until governmental reorganization is accomplished under the next administration, leaders maintained.

The recommendation for a loan to Armenia was scouted on all sides. There is a wide variance of opinion regarding Philippine independence.

The laws Wilson has twice asked to be passed, it was declared, will fail to pass, it was declared. His proposal to license all concerns doing an interstate business was labeled as "socialistic" or "paternalistic."

Negotiate to Halt Irish War. Cabinet of England Holding Conference With Sinn Fein Leaders to Bring About Peace.

London, Dec. 8.—(By United Press.)—While high Irish officials and Sinn Fein leaders continued to negotiate possibilities today, no progress was made in the conference.

Cabinet officers conferred with emissaries who claimed to bring offers of peace. Some definite action on the report of Arthur Henderson, head of a labor mission to Ireland, was expected today when the cabinet met again. Prospects of the peace were brightened by improved industrial conditions in Ireland.

HARDING BUSY AT HOME WITH NEW POLICIES

President-Elect Ready to Begin Actual Constructive Work.

Marion, Ohio, Dec. 8.—With his return to Marion today from his vacation trip to the Tropics, President-elect Harding was ready to begin actual constructive work on the policies of the coming administration.

In Washington during the last two days he felt out opinions on many subjects, and he let it be known today that he was well pleased with the result. He told his friends that he believed his ideal of party government and common understanding had been furthered by his talks with republican leaders in and out of congress and that his canvass of sentiment regarding association of nations had been particularly encouraging.

The work done in Washington was purely preliminary, however, and at least some of the senators with whom he discussed foreign affairs will come to Marion later to take part in the league conferences that are to begin early next week.

Meantime, consultations about selections for the cabinet will continue, and it is not probable that the final list of appointments to Mr. Harding's official family will be complete much before inauguration.

During the remainder of the present week, the president-elect plans to devote his attention almost wholly to correspondence that has accumulated since he left for his vacation on Nov. 6. He also hopes to find opportunity to make up on the golf course some of the outdoor exercise he missed during his voyage to Panama and his four days of travel and conferences in Virginia and the capital.

JURY SECURED TO TRY MINERS

Evidence in Famous West Frankford Murder Case Will Be Offered—Black Hand Ramor.

Marion, Ill., Dec. 8.—A jury in Williamson county circuit court here prepared today to hear evidence that is expected to determine the fate of Settimo De Santis and Frank Bianca, miners, charged with murder in the first degree for the deaths of Amiel Calcaterra, 14 years old, and Tony Hemphill, 17, both of West Frankford, Ill., last August.

The jury was completed early last night.

Authorities never announced the result of their investigation into the murders which led to the anti-Italian riot at West Frankford, but citizens there believed the youths were the victims of a "black hand" band.

The bodies of both were found in the woods near Royallton, Aug. 4, two days after they disappeared. The throats had been cut, and Hemphill had been shot.

Authorities said De Santis admitted hiring Calcaterra to drive him to Royallton, Aug. 2, and explained that Hemphill accompanied them.

In some quarters, the opinion was voiced that the death of Calcaterra was plotted because he was said to have discovered the identity of participants in a number of bank robberies in southern Illinois, and that Hemphill was killed to shield the slayers of his companion.

Another Campaign. Then again there is another campaign being waged with all the subtlety that politicians can command. They have obligations of their own to fulfill. They want to see a particular friend in the cabinet. They want to see a particular friend in the cabinet.

Certainly the most important aid to success is a good physique. The child who is not physically fit begins to be a failure at his work, works under many handicaps in school, is likely to drop out before he has gone far toward success.

Do you know how to make sure there is nothing physically wrong with your child? Let The Argus, through its Washington Information Bureau, send you a bulletin entitled "The School Child's Health" that will give you the best information in the world. It was compiled by the American Hygiene association and published by the American Red Cross. It is FREE.

Frederic J. Haskin, Director, The Rock Island Argus Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

I enclose herewith two cents in stamps for return postage on a free copy of "The School Child's Health."

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

MEANT TALK FOR SENATE OLIGARCHY

Harding's Use of Governor Cox's Phrase Regarded as Significant.

BY DAVID LAWRENCE.

Washington, Dec. 8.—President-elect Harding's show of independence in his farewell speech at the senate is the talk of the national capital. It wasn't so much the impressive way by which the departing senator appealed to his colleagues for cooperation but the very clear-cut emphasis which he placed upon the powers of the executive that caught the ear of political Washington and promptly set everybody gossiping as to the true meaning of the informal utterance.

It is a fact, for instance, that when Mr. Harding arrived here Sunday night, indeed when he met some of his colleagues early Monday they were almost unanimously against the idea of his making a speech at all. Some suggested that it would be indecorous for him to address the senate in his present position. But Warren Harding showed that he has a mind of his own. He determined to make the speech because he had something very definite to say, something that couldn't very well be said if he were already president and had to address the senate on official business.

He wanted the men in the senate to know that he intended to be as insistent upon the powers of the executive as he had been on the powers of a senator. He gave a gentle warning that anything like a "senatorial oligarchy" wouldn't be tolerated. He referred more or less humorously to Governor Cox's phrase—"A senate oligarchy"—but the significant thing is that he saw fit to bring the phrase back into this particular speech at all. Those who know Mr. Harding's mind say he wanted to take occasion to appeal to his friends not to presume too much, not to make his task hard simply because he had grown so intimate with his colleagues in the senate.

Moreover he wanted to remove any suggestion that the senate would control the next administration as has been so annoyingly suggested from time to time not by democrats alone but by leading republicans in the senate with whom the wish is father to the thought.

To be sure, Mr. Harding has found out one thing already during his brief visit in Washington, namely that the most insistent demands for representation in the cabinet either for themselves or their friends has come from colleagues in the United States senate. This has led to two very well defined counter movements—one on the part of some loyal comrades who really think they are of the greatest assistance to Mr. Harding by their effort to keep anybody in the senate from going into the cabinet, and another group which really wants to have a good deal to say in the next administration and thinks the best way to accomplish it is by retaining in the senate all the strong men and making the capitol the same center of gravity that it was in the days of Aldrich and Cannon, when to know what the administration was going to do newspapermen flocked to the senate or the house instead of the White house.

Another Campaign. Then again there is another campaign being waged with all the subtlety that politicians can command. They have obligations of their own to fulfill. They want to see a particular friend in the cabinet. They want to see a particular friend in the cabinet.

Certainly the most important aid to success is a good physique. The child who is not physically fit begins to be a failure at his work, works under many handicaps in school, is likely to drop out before he has gone far toward success.

Do you know how to make sure there is nothing physically wrong with your child? Let The Argus, through its Washington Information Bureau, send you a bulletin entitled "The School Child's Health" that will give you the best information in the world. It was compiled by the American Hygiene association and published by the American Red Cross. It is FREE.

Frederic J. Haskin, Director, The Rock Island Argus Information Bureau, Washington, D. C.

I enclose herewith two cents in stamps for return postage on a free copy of "The School Child's Health."

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____

AUTO BANDITS ROB 2 STORES IN BETTENDORF

Three Masked Men Hold Up Proprietors and Get Away.

Auto bandits in two of the most daring robberies in recent months, held up and plundered two Bettendorf establishments shortly after midnight this morning. Their loot amounted to about \$300 in cash and jewelry.

As T. Birkel of Birkel Brothers' billiard hall was about to close up last night he was confronted by three masked men, the leader of whom commanded him to throw up his hands. Two cameras, two wrist watches, two lavallieres, three stickpins and a brooch, together with \$175 in cash, was secured by the robbers from the habitude and Birkel.

The Arthur Femmeroff confectionery store, which also fell a victim to the boldness of the holdups two hours later, sustained a loss of \$100 in cash at the hands of the gunmen. The police of Davenport are working with the members of the sheriff's force in running down the bandits who escaped in an auto.

ARMY CAPTAIN ADMITS BEING A GERMAN SPY

Commander Willet Surprises Superiors By Alleged Confession.

New York, Dec. 8.—Hans Willet, alias Captain A. Willet, commander of Company I, 48th United States Infantry during the war, was held in custody yesterday by police officers on a confession he is alleged to have made to police detectives here yesterday that he was a German spy.

Although he had been sought as a deserter, alleged to have absconded soon after the armistice with \$4,000 in company funds, his confession of espionage came as a complete surprise.

Willet said, according to the detectives, that he was one of 300 cadets who had trained in Germany and were sent to this country to enlist in the United States army. The scheme, he is alleged to have said, was for the cadets, to lead units in France and expose them in dangerous positions for slaughter.

His wife, who was formerly a Miss Crawford of Chicago, called at the police station early today, after having heard of her husband's arrest, and asked the police for his keys and his money. When told Willet had been taken to Governor's Island, she said she would go to see him later. They have lived for more than a year on Riverside Drive, she said.

OPERATE TODAY ON JOLIET GIRL

Child Who Was Imprisoned in Cellar 17 Years May Regain Mentality and Start Life Anew.

Chicago, Dec. 8.—(United Press.)—Starved of mental and physical growth for 17 years through misguided parents who kept her shut in a cellar for that period, Mary Kowalski, 19, was to be given a chance to start over again.

Surgeons this morning were prepared to operate and effect the transplanting of a monkey's thyroid gland, according to Dr. Sigmond Kromholz, specialist in neurology, will start Mary, who, he says, has the mind of a six-month-old baby, "on her way to live."

Crouched in a chair at the American hospital here today, Mary, a mere mass of bones and skin, stared vacantly. Her weight is exactly 35 pounds. "All she can do is to sleep and eat," said Dr. Kromholz.

Mary, according to Dr. Kromholz, was found in the cellar of her mother's home at Joliet, Ill., last September by health officers. She was covered with vermin and, according to the health officers who questioned the mother, the child had been there for 17 years.

According to the broken story of the mother, the girl suffered infantile paralysis when she was a year old. Efforts to cure her unavailing, the mother is alleged to have decided to keep the girl in the cellar, as a means of protection.

CANADIAN DELEGATE STRS MEET

Ex-Minister Rowley Asks Assembly to Control Organizations.

Washington, Dec. 8.—President Wilson has completed his recommendations with regard to the boundaries of Armenia and has forwarded them to the League of Nations in session at Geneva. It was said today at the state department, Geneva, Dec. 8.—(By The Associated Press.)—Relations between the technical organizations of the League of Nations, as well as those between the council and assembly were considered today by delegates to the assembly meeting here.

It was expected the discussion of the scope and powers of the military, naval and aerial commission might develop what connection it may have with the league's international force that is being sent to supervise the plebiscite in Lithuania.

On one occasion, Lord Cecil Roberts, delegate from South Africa, referred to this commission as a "staff." This appellation, however, was distasteful to many delegates who do not want to encourage the idea of the militarization of the league.

The possibility of conflict between the league and the various powers has arisen as a result of the decision of the committee on admission of new states excepting Albania, and it is likely to be discussed on the floor of the assembly when that committee's report is considered. Lord Robert Cecil has insisted stoutly that Albania should be admitted to the league.

Rene Viviani of France, and Signor Sgarbi of Italy, have opposed this step on the ground that Albania has not been recognized by any power, and that admission at this time might interfere with national policies of some governments. They were able to secure postponement of Albania's application, but Lord Robert Cecil reserved the right to continue the discussion on the floor of the assembly.

Two Year Term. The commission considering the manner in which the four elective members of the council shall be chosen, has decided they are to be elected for a term of two years. At the expiration of this time, they will be eligible for two years more, but after the second term, they will be ineligible until after four years have elapsed.

When the assembly meets again next September, it will receive a report from a special committee to which arguments for and against amendment to the league's covenant was referred.

All proposed amendments have been sent to this committee. Gustav Ador of Switzerland explained that it was proposed to set up these organizations with consultative powers only, the assembly losing none of its powers in so doing.

Lord Robert Cecil said he thought Mr. Rowley was mistaken in thinking the organizations would fall under the control of Europe. All the world must cooperate in all the league's work, he declared.

Replying to M. Hanotaux's interpretation of his remarks as an attack upon European statesmen, Mr. Rowley said he did not so intend them and that if any delegate so construed his remarks he had no hesitation in withdrawing his words.

Mr. Rowley's second appearance on the speakers' stand removed the embarrassment his frankness had produced in certain parts of the assembly and he was applauded after proposing adjournment of the debate until tomorrow in order to obtain further study for the purpose of reconciling the divergent views.

BANDIT OFFERS CASH TO VICTIM

Robber Finds Ohio Pottery Worker "Broke" and Hands Him Ten Dollar Bill.

Steubenville, Ohio, Dec. 8.—Daniel Cable, a pottery worker, reported to the police here last night that a robber, who held him up, while he was enroute to his home, offered to give him \$10 after the highwayman discovered that he was penniless.

SAYS HUSBAND WAS PAID TO MARRY CLARA

Wife of Frank Hamon Tells Startling Story in Interview.

San Francisco, Calif., Dec. 8.—An interview with Ruth Walker Hamon, said to be the wife of Frank Louis Hamon, former husband of Clara Smith Hamon, sought in connection with the death of Jake L. Hamon, millionaire oil operator and republican national committeeman of Oklahoma, was published by the San Francisco Examiner this morning.

The interview dated at Sacramento, Calif., quotes Mrs. Hamon as saying her husband "at the behest of Jake L. Hamon," married Clara Barton Smith and in return was given \$100 a month from that time by the oil operator.

Frank L. Hamon and Clara Barton Smith, according to the published interview, were divorced at Weatherford, Texas, May 23, 1917, and never had lived together since.

The interview further alleged that Mrs. J. L. Hamon, widow of the millionaire, was paid \$1,000 a month to live in Chicago by her husband.

Frank Hamon, according to the interview, "disappeared five weeks before the death of his uncle, after having declared he was going to seclude himself and 'have it out with him.'"

The Examiner, quoting Mrs. Hamon, said in part: "I married Frank Hamon, in Tucson, Ariz., on Aug. 14, 1918. He was a freeman on the railroad. After six months courtship I married him."

"A few months after our wedding he told me he had been married before. His first wife, he said, was Clara Barton Smith, and he declared that she was now living with his uncle, Jake Hamon. He assured me that he never lived with her himself, and that he had secured a divorce in Weatherford, Texas, May 23, 1917."

"At first Frank tried to make me believe he had married this woman while under the influence of liquor. I doubted this, as he never drank while he was with me. Later I perceived that he was getting a check from his uncle for \$100 every month, and I wanted to know why. It was then that he admitted that he had married the Smith girl merely as a convenience to his

(Continued on Page Three.)

EX-KING MUST MAKE DECISION

Greeks Prefer "Wait and See" Policy in Regard to Return of Constantine.

Paris, Dec. 8.—The Greek government has addressed a note to former King Constantine asking that he abdicate immediately in favor of the Crown Prince, says a dispatch from Athens today.

Brindisi, Italy, Dec. 7.—Several members of the Greek chamber of deputies, politicians and others have arrived from Greece to join Constantine on his return to Athens. They say Constantine's entry will be the most triumphant since the days of ancient Greece.

Athens, Dec. 8.—(Associated Press.)—Plans to have Ex-King Constantine return to Greece this week appear today to have been abandoned. The decision of the government apparently was to continue its "wait and see" policy, with the tendency to leave the decision as to Constantine's return to the throne with the ex-king himself.

The financial pressure of the British upon the government, which has been exerted against the plan to restore Constantine, appears to have become stronger.

SECRETARY OF TREASURY LAYS BEFORE CONGRESS EXPENSE OF CONFLICT

POISONING IS FATAL MOLINE FACTORY HEAD

Hanson, Secretary-Treasurer Moline Mill Mfg. Co., Dies.

Death from ptomaine poisoning, it is believed, ended the eccentric, although brilliant, career of Henry S. Hanson, secretary-treasurer of the Moline Mill Manufacturing company, yesterday.

Hanson's body was found in a room of the decrepit Hanson home, 2424 Fourth street, by J. A. Gerwey, vice president of the mill concern, and Oscar Erickson, a fellow member of the firm. The dead commercial man was last seen Monday noon in the company of offices. He appeared in good health.

Salmon Causes Death. Death was probably the result of eating poisoned salmon, according to Dr. J. M. Wood, who examined the body and the contents of the stomach. An empty salmon can was found near the body. Examination of other salmon found nearby convinced Dr. Wood that the fish was contaminated.

The body was discovered in the kitchen of the home, lying on the floor against one of the doors. Owing to the proximity of the telephone, the theory that Hanson might have made a desperate attempt to summon assistance, was advanced.

Father Noted Physician. Hanson was 59 years old and a son of the late Dr. Swan Hanson, who had been prominent among the pioneers of Moline. It is said that Dr. Hanson enjoyed wide popularity as a physician and bone-setter. Hanson's mother died about seven years ago. Since then, Hanson had lived more or less as a recluse, venturing forth only to business.

The eccentric mill company official was the sole occupant of the almost deserted home, which he allowed to run down until it presented a ramshackle, squalorous appearance both inside and out. He had prepared his own meals with little or no thought as to keeping up the general order of the household.

Veteran Postal Clerk. Hanson was born in Moline Feb. 10, 1861. At one time he was an official of the Barnard & Leas Manufacturing company. He was also one of the first postal employees in Moline.

For many years Hanson had been associated with the Moline Mill Manufacturing company, whose plant is devoted to the manufacture of flour-making machinery, is located at 115 Seventeenth street. All members of the concern today attested to the character and integrity of their former business associate.

Hanson was a bachelor and left no immediate relatives, having been an only child. Neils and Harry Hanson, 2424 Fourth street, Moline, are cousins. All other relatives, it is said, live in Sweden.

Best Kept Man. The dead man had devoted much of his youth to newspaper correspondence. He literally read himself into an education. Up to the time of his death he was regarded as one of the best read men in the community. Hanson, his friends aver, had always been neglectful of himself even to personal appearance. His whole life, they explained, had seemingly been consecrated to the comforts of others.

No funeral arrangements have as yet been announced.

HAMOR BY WIRS

Chicago—Police here will carry poison gas in the future as a part of their equipment. It will be used on criminals who barricade themselves in buildings and cannot be taken any other way.

From April 6, 1917, to Last June Government Spent 38 Billions.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The net cost of the war to the American government was \$38,400,000,000. This, he said, represented the "adjusted" expenditure of the treasury excluding all other outlay which had no relation to the actual prosecution of the war during the period from April 6, 1917, to June 30, last, which he said covered the extremes of the government's war time fiscal operations.

Total expenditures by the government during the period covered, excepting only postal disbursements from postal revenues, were \$38,400,000,000. Treasury figures showed and this \$38,400,000,000 was obtained in taxes and revenue from sources other than borrowed money.

Mr. Houston said a deduction of \$9,523,000,000, the amount loaned to foreign governments, should be made from the grand total since these loans will be repaid and consequently can not be charged as actual expenditure. The secretary made other deductions aggregating approximately \$4,600,000,000 which he said represented the excess cost of actual government operations for the three years and three months over what they would have been in normal times.

Houston's Report. Washington, Dec. 8.—(United Press.)—Secretary of the Treasury Houston today asked congress to boost the federal tax rate two per cent on incomes under \$5,000. Houston at the same time asked that:

Surtaxes be lowered on some incomes over \$5,000. Corporations made to pay a flat tax of 20 per cent on undivided profits.

Bills increases be made in existing consumers' taxes on tobacco, cigars, cigarettes, candy, chewing gum and the like. Gasoline be taxed two cents per gallon and automobiles fifty cents per horsepower.

Houston's proposals were contained in his annual report presented to Speaker Gillett of the house at noon and are intended to net the government approximately \$2,000,000,000 a year. That part of the report dealing with taxation was intended as a guide to congress in passing new revenue laws to take the place of those enacted during the war period and which now are failing to produce sufficient revenue for the government, according to the secretary.

At present, \$12,000,000,000 must be collected during the next three years, Houston declared. If the government is to pay its ordinary expenses and meet \$7,500,000,000 worth of floating debts and Victory notes before May 1, 1923.

Concerning the excess profits tax repeal of which business men are demanding, Houston wrote: "The excess profits tax, however, must be replaced not merely repealed, and I believe it should be replaced in large part by some form of corporation profits tax."

The twenty per cent tax on undivided profits of corporations is Houston's proposal for replacement. The corporations now are escaping with a single tax of ten per cent, he said, while individuals and partners are obliged to pay surtaxes ranging up to 65 and 70 per cent on incomes over \$5,000.

The lower surtax rates on incomes slightly more than \$5,000 a year would be increased by Houston.

The secretary also recommended abolition of the present consumers' tax on ice cream and similar luxuries and urged against a "radical" use of the general sales tax.

Houston presented this summary to show what his plan of tax revision would yield the government (Continued on Page Fourteen.)

SOUTHERN ROAD SHOPS BURNED

Million Dollar Loss in Fire at Houston—Cars Go Up in Big Conflagration.

Houston, Texas, Dec. 8.—(United Press.)—Fire sweeping the central portion of the Southern Pacific railroad shops here last night caused approximately \$1,000,000 loss, destroying 29 box cars and 20 passenger cars, including the private car of W. R. Scott, president of the railroad.

Origin of the blaze is unknown. The fire is believed, however, to have started in the paint shop

